

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A process for the improved recovery of double stranded linear nucleic acids of small fragment length having less than about 300 base pairs, of contaminants in a liquid sample, comprising increasing the concentration of said contaminants by adding to said sample a member selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid condensing agents and monovalent cations, and contacting the sample with an ultrafiltration membrane to fractionate by fragment length, subjecting said sample to a pressure differential, and recovering said small fragment length double stranded linear nucleic acids.

10. (Original) The process of claim 9, wherein said nucleic acid condensing agents are selected from the group consisting of manganese, magnesium, hexaminecobalt chloride, spermine, spermidine, and mixtures thereof.

11. (Original) The process of claim 9, wherein said monovalent cations are selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium and ammonium.

12. (Original) The process of claim 9, wherein said pressure differential is a constant pressure differential.

13. (Canceled)